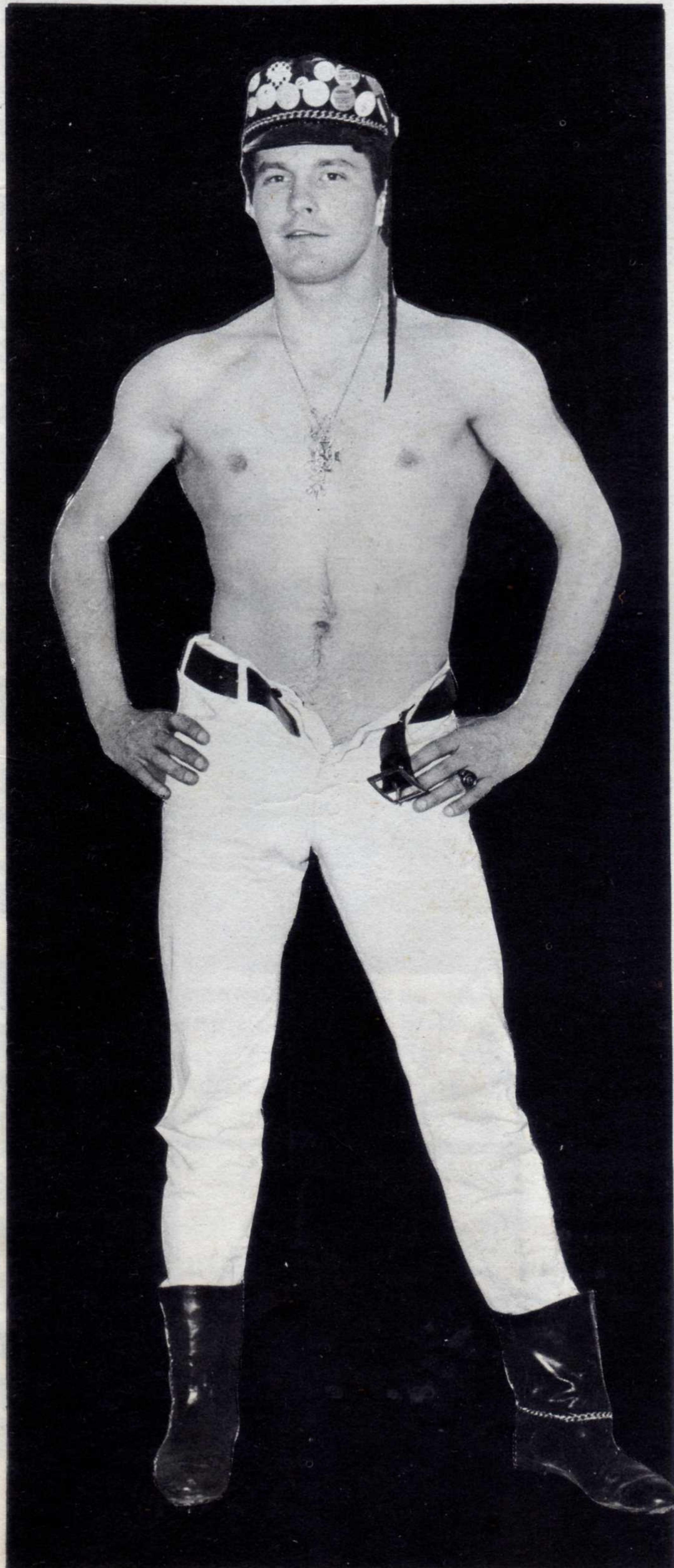


MAGPIE

OF CALIFORNIA

50¢

APRIL '69



-143
50¢

**Drag shakes
draft!**

PAGE 22



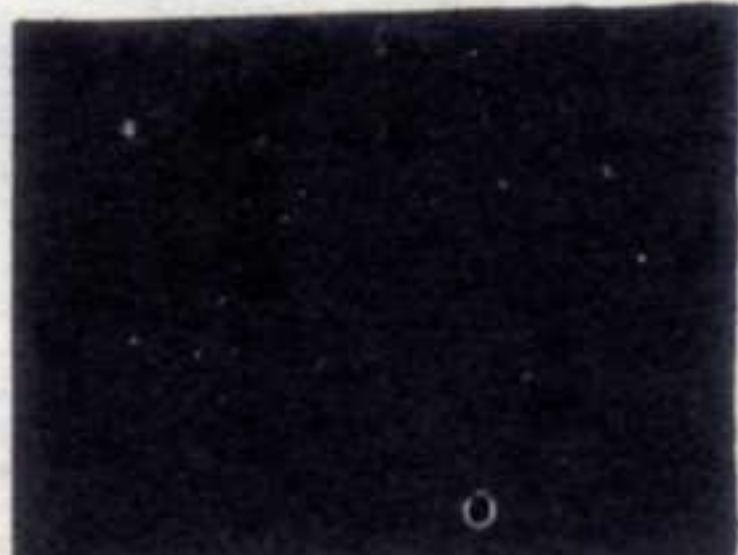
**When a lad
needs a
lawyer**

PAGE 3

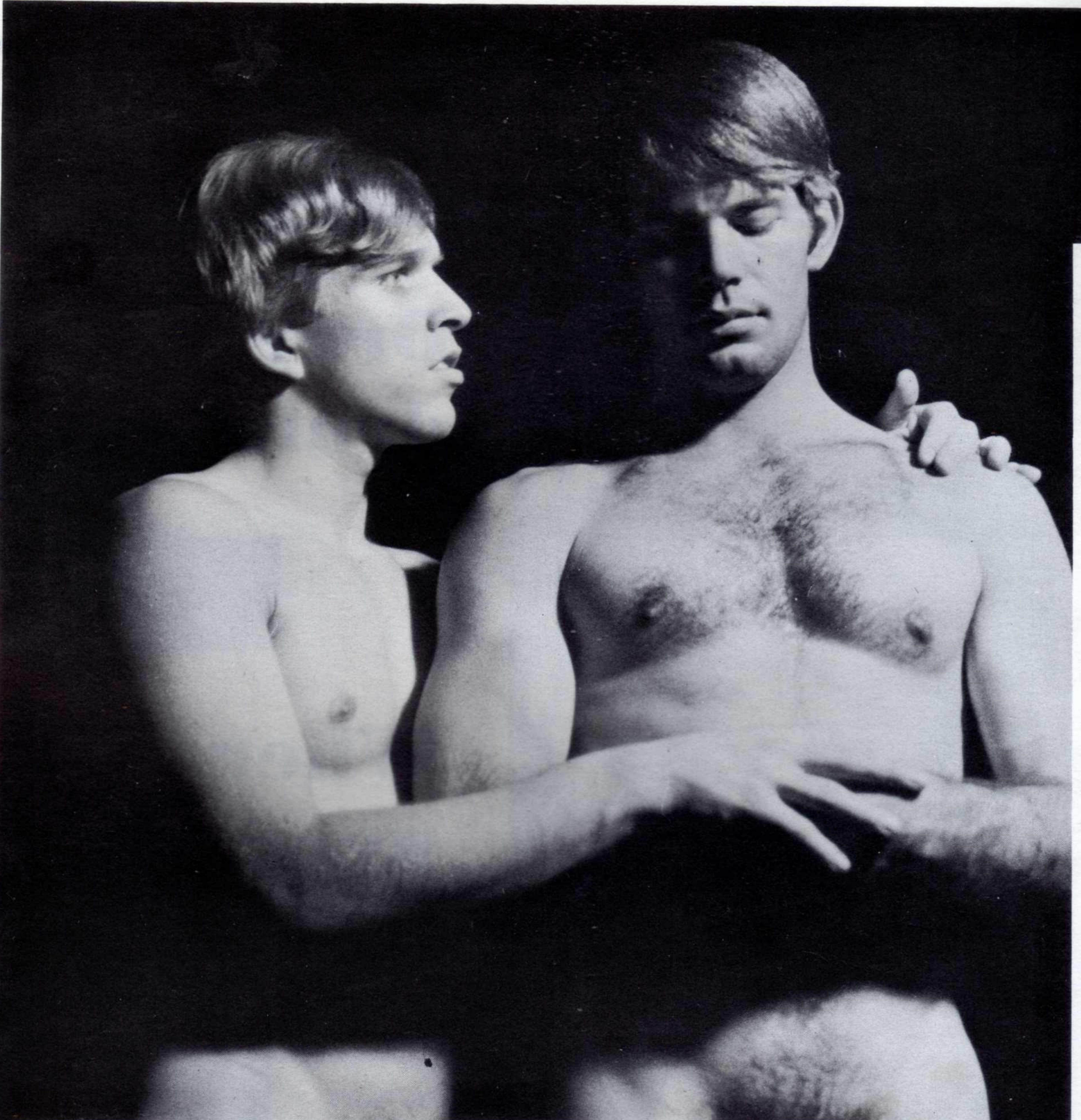


**Those Boys
in the Band**

PAGE 25



Melrose & Cahuenga



L.A.'s best looking bartenders



When a Lad needs a lawyer

--BY LEX MARTIN

With a mayoral election ahead the number of arrests around Los Angeles has, as usual, jumped. The arrested person, when picked up in a bar raid is more often than not, innocent of any wrong-going, but he still needs a lawyer and only then does he meet one--and for the first time in his life. Is it not much better to have a lawyer on a consultative basis before one must be called, usually at some late hour?

Everyone should have a lawyer before they need one--before that accident, that lawsuit, that broken affair and the resulting dispute over custody of the poodles and before that 'gay' arrest.

We live in a highly complicated and legalistic age; the average person, gay or straight, needs a lawyer more often than he realizes--and too often he realizes this fact too late.

Legal advice does not come cheap but there are many struggling young lawyers aiming for their first hundred thousand who can be quite reasonable, particularly if they have met the client socially, however briefly, beforehand. While a few that we know are as devious as any to be found in the pages of Dickens--and as sepulchral in their demeanor, most lawyers can be reasonable and accommodating.

Several of our friends prefer to deal with a straight lawyer rather than with one known to be sympathetic to homosexuals, but this is a personal matter. As a rule it is better to seek a lawyer with a sizeable gay clientele. And how is one found? Just ask around Los Angeles and San Francisco bars and other meeting places.

Otherwise the local office of an organization such as S.I.R. or the Mattachine Society will be glad to help. The office of the American Bar Association is also very helpful. Most gay magazines and papers carry ads for bondsmen.

Any lawyer will spell out what to do when arrested. As a rule what we print here is what happens: When you are arrested--even on suspicion of drunken driving, all you must tell the officer is your name and some address that you use. When asked where you work be vague but give a credible reply but never say that you are a teacher or work for the government and so on (even hairdressers in California have had their licenses lifted during the past year--after being convicted of some sex charge!). Later your attorney can protect your occupation by legal means.

Never admit to any kind of sexual propensity and never fall for the arresting officer's cajoling approach--he is at work and to arrest you is his job. Above all, vehemently deny what you are accused of when being arrested; this is very important, as failure to deny any accusation made against you can be used later as a tacit admission of guilt.

Then clam up but politely and say that this is your lawyer's advice.

After booking at the police station you will be permitted at least one phone call. This is when you call your lawyer or bail bondsman. Now it will become obvious that if either of them knows you there will be fewer embarrassing questions to answer.

If you choose to call the lawyer he will contact a bail bondsman to effect your release, so calling the bondsman is going to get you released quicker. Once out of jail, contact your lawyer--if late at night do so first thing in the morning.

When arrested in California the usual or most common charge is 'lewd-vag.' which is listed in the Penal Code as 647(A). This is a misdemeanor and the bail is automatically set. If arrested on a felony the proceedings are more complicated and it takes the bondsman and a lawyer (the latter chosen by the former or by you) much longer to obtain bail. Sodomy and

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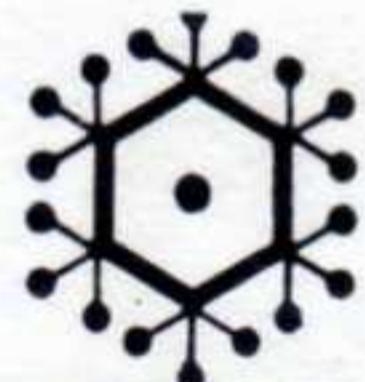
LAD

similar acts at which persons are apprehended usually result in a felony charge.

Remember your rights--if you don't know what they are consult your lawyer; be polite but firm and bear in mind that a homosexual is not a criminal--and if you regard yourself as 'nelly', butch it up, as a record is made of your attitude at the time of arrest.

Remember too that the average policeman has only read a book or two on the law and he interprets it accordingly; he does not make the law but only implements it. You still get your day in court. The police have lawyers behind them, so should you. Most judges privately deplore the ridiculous sex laws they must uphold so you will get a fair hearing even though the judge had a nagging wife prepare a lousy breakfast and his only daughter has gone to join the Hippies.

Your demeanor in court and your convincing denial (IF innocent) of the charge can help acquit you should you decide to fight it.



Bill to legalize homosexuality

Assemblyman Willie L. Brown Jr., who claims his San Francisco district has more homosexuals than any other in California, introduced a bill yesterday to legalize certain private sexual conduct between consenting adults.

"What I'm attempting to do is knock out the blackmail and the public condemnation, and free the cops from being peeping toms in restrooms so they can go out and do some honest criminal investigation," he said. Homosexual acts now are illegal, regardless of whether they take place in private or public.

The Democratic legislator said similar bills have been adopted in England and Illinois - but he admitted the measure might have a tough time in California.

I'm not unusually optimistic for the first session, he said.

"I really don't expect any honest opposition, people who have philosophical differ-

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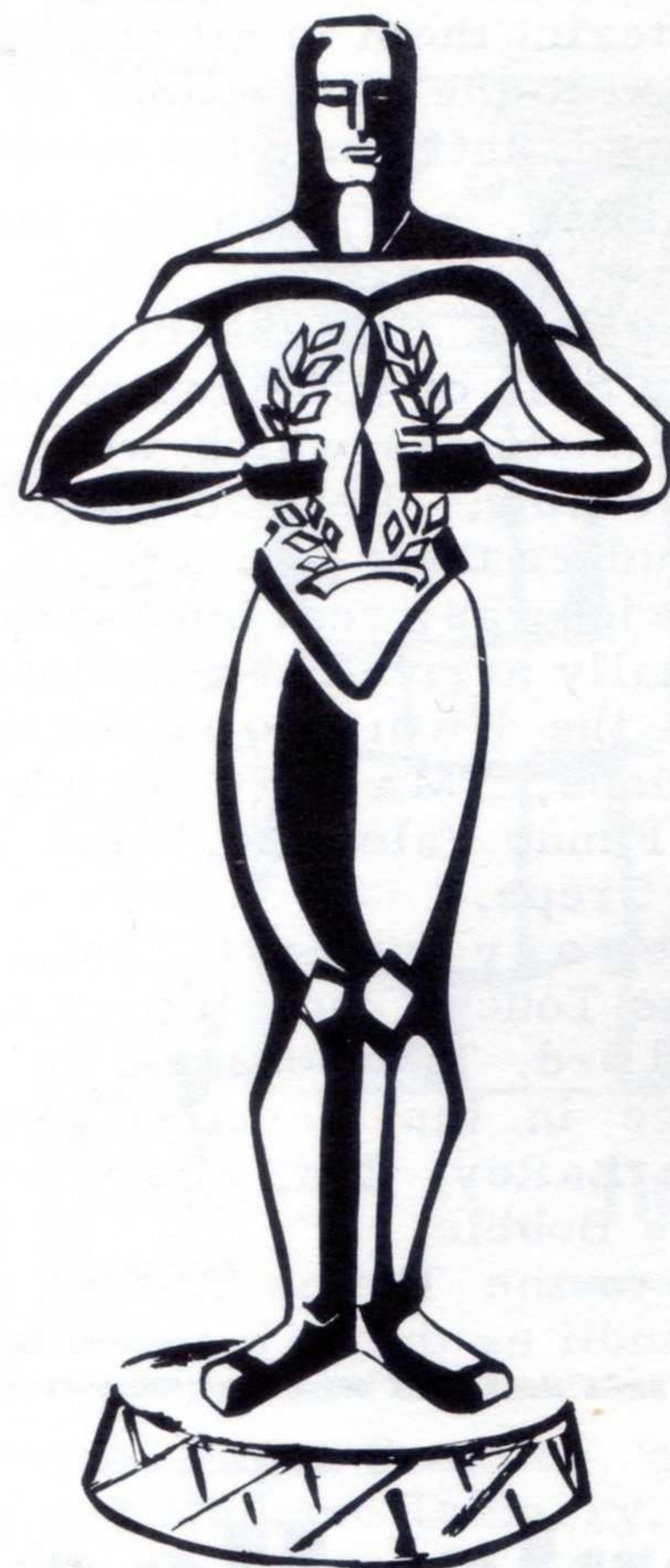
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ences. I think there will be considerable practical political opposition based on people's feelings toward homosexuals."

Brown said the public "tends to discriminate" against homosexuals. "They tend to treat them as they do blacks and other minorities - as less than human beings."

During his campaign, the legislator said he spoke to several homophile groups, who asked him: "Why is it we are discriminated against and nobody does anything about it?" He said he decided it was time to do something now.

A.T.G. Ball

The Scene: Parkview Women's Club; The Date: February 15, 1969. The Occasion: The First Annual California Mardi Gras Ball, sponsored by Alpha Tau Gamma, a new social club in town.

Though the day and early evening was marred by a heavy rain, a good crowd turned out in their finest gowns and best suits to help celebrate Mardi Gras in California.

A highlight of the evening was when the curtains parted and revealed the gigantic letters A. T. G. On the stage were thousands of balloons in a myriad of colors. The Lovely Lori swept through the balloons scattering them in all directions, as she stepped to the microphone to welcome the crowd, introduce the co-MC's, Lenn and Marilyn, and open the judging of costumes and gowns.

It was obvious that the contestants spent a great deal of time and money on the beautiful costumes which were presented that evening. Believe me, I didn't envy the judges their job.

Although the job was a real bone-grinder, the judges finally arrived at a decision.

Winners in the Humorous Category were: 1st Place, "Maudie Frickert," Second, "My Funny Valentine," and Third, "The King of Crepe."

Male Category winners: 1st, Cal, as "The Midas Touch, 2nd, Jim as Mardi Gras '69, and 3rd, The Cossack.

First Place in the Female Category went to Miss LaRey, 2nd, Miss Hawaii, and 3rd, Miss Bobbie.

Moving on to the Theme Category; 1st Place was Dundii as the "King of the Sun,



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2nd Place, Pagan Summer, and 3rd, King Louis and Madame DuBarry.

After the trophies were presented, the first place winners from each Category were judged for the Grand Sweepstakes trophy. I'm sure the judges had a difficult time reaching the final decision, but after due consideration, the top award was presented to Miss LaRey. A happier contestant was not to be found. Her smile outshone even her gown of shimmering gold.

It was interesting to note that none of the members of A. T. G. participated as contestants. When we asked about this we were informed that their by-laws state that no member may be a contestant at any function sponsored by the Club. Bravo!

The judging over, and the awards made, a tired but content group danced the final few dances and then bid Mardi Gras a fond farewell, at least for this year. Each left for home or one of the many parties, taking with him the spirit and memory of Mardi Gras, and looking forward to the Second Annual California Mardi Gras Ball.

Congratulations to A. T. G. on a successful Ball.

With the Ball behind, and since A. T. G. is an active Club, they already have another project planned. Be sure to keep the night of May 18th open. That night at the Little Club, A. T. G. Review #1 will go on stage. Casting has been completed and it is now in rehearsal. Drop by, and bring your funny bone...you'll enjoy it.



TOP WINNERS (l to r.) Cal, Maudie Frickert, Miss La Rey, Dundii.

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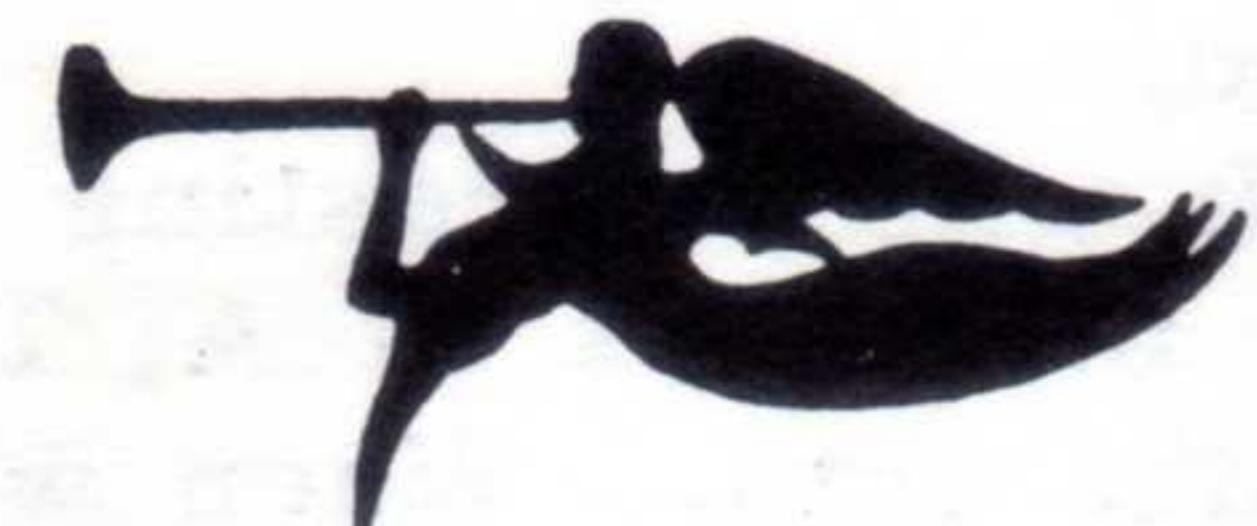
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Book review

THE HOMOSEXUAL HANDBOOK

Well, it had to appear this year (although it was first published in New York late last year) - "The Homosexual Handbook" by one Angelo d' Arcangelo. It is a paperback from New York's Olympia Press and it sells for \$1.95 - if you can find a copy.

It starts out by being well written and sophisticated in what might be called New Yorker magazine style. It's aim, and I quote from page 8, is for a "-book as easy to read as a Boy Scout's handbook, and as full of useful information". It is extremely funny in parts and all through the book there is some excellent advice on health, on pot and poppers on cruising and on orgy giving and on bars and baths. However, about quarter way into the book I got the impression that it was the work of more than one person but I think that I can guess the name of the famous writer responsible for the best part of it.

There are too many cute French and other foreign phrases and words - some of them misspelled - in this very readable book but there is also more than one glaring grammatical error.

The writer(s) exhibits a zest for life and sex that is praiseworthy but he has his hang-ups, especially in the S & M department.

There are many quotable lines in most chapters, for instance. "One looks forward to being buried with a hard on". There

are stories and descriptions of bars and other meeting places coast to coast but West Coast descriptions are very dated - Jack's Waterfront is mentioned and that that closed years ago. All this is quibbling

on my part - this book is a must on everyone's reading list but.... and it is a big BUT, it is almost impossible to obtain a copy in Los Angeles at the time of going to press. I called four bookstores, straight and gay before I found one that admitted to having a copy; I visited three more before I was able to buy one of two remaining copies there. I was told in two stores that it had been recalled by the publishers and when I read the last chapter I could see why.

This last chapter is superfluous - it adds little to the book and may be regarded as irresponsible. Therein is a "list of practical homosexuals past and present with very short biographical notes". Some of the notes are but a few telling words others are paragraph long. All the notes name names and give some witty news of the famous show business folk or politicians listed. Some of the notes can be called sensational.

Meanwhile you can thank your lucky stars that you are not famous and gay and mentioned in "The Homosexual Handbook" - or perhaps you are famous and gay and mentioned and don't give a Damn. Good for you. I'm furious they left me out. And if the author's name is truly Angelo d'Arcangelo, well then, I too have an unusual name. Until next month.

PIERRE DE RIMMER

David

Coming Soon

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Thanks LEW for the nominations-

Best Actor In A Supporting Role

★ **GINO** ★

"Belle Of The Yukon"



THANK YOU LEW,
FOR MY NOMINATION.



Jack

COSTUMING

FREIDA	" THE QUEEN"
JACK	" HELLO DOLLY"
LA REY	" THE V. I. P.'S"
PETER	" GYPSY"
VICKY	" QUEEN OF BURLESQUE"

Art Show



Tuesday April 1st marks a new dimension to the already popular event at the Black Knight, 10932 Burbank Blvd. in North Hollywood. This year's 3rd Annual Art Festival, on May 17th, will be preceded by a one man showing of drawings and paintings by last year's winner, Michael Lawrence. According to David Knight, each winner in the future will be requested to show his or her works the following year, giving the festival a broader array of color and excitement.

Mr. Lawrence, a relatively new artist to California, has painted for many years. Seeking his niche in life, he has intermixed painting with a number of the other living arts---mainly theater and writing. He has choreographed numerous musical comedy stock companies throughout the U.S. including Palm Tree Playhouse in Sarasota, Fla., Allenberry Playhouse in Penn., and Calumet Musical Playhouse in Michigan. Originally from Jacksonville Fla. he has studied art in Florida at Ringling School of Art and in A Ohio at the Akron Art Institute. His most recent choreographic achievement was a pre-broadway production of a New Rock Musical "Alison" based on Alice In Wonderland, to be presented on Broadway this coming season.

His writings include 3 plays ---- "A weekend with Narcissus and Infidelity", "The sound of one hand Clapping and a nearly completed, "Interloci" "The Land of Flavors and Favors", a forty character play about ESP. Mr. Lawrence was quoted as saying, "I hope this play will be the new generation's answer to O'Neil's "Strange Interlude". Other writings include a series entitled "Thoughts of a Runaway Mind" (elsewhere printed in this issue and published first in MAGPIE'S first issue), and a book, up for consideration, "Dance You Fool, The Floor Is ON FIRE".

His showing at the Black Knight will run for two weeks starting April 1st. Everyone is invited to visit and view his work covering a wide range from simple line drawing to a 6ft. Orgiastic abstraction, titled "The Climax".

"thoughts of a runaway mind"

by MICHAEL LAWRENCE

The street is dark and he walks alone. It is very late (or early). The hour when all busy streets are quite, when everyone who was going somewhere, has gone and the ones to come ----haven't yet. A half a block behind you are footsteps.. Big husky footsteps. You have just left the bar and the musics in your head are stopping and the forceful footsteps at your back side are starting. They are becoming big and blond----- Twitching, you turn around to see, a mammoth figure is stomping up behind you. Manhood in a blue-jean jacket, manhood with a mother's heart inside. You know you've been through a lifetime of experiences with this person, even though you've never spoken. His eyes flash as he passes a light in the store window. His blond hair falls alittle. His clumping footsteps echo down the street. Your own head flashes a second of backward time. He is almost upon you and the air becomes warmer. You can feel his breath on the back of your body. He sways to the right as he approaches you and your shoulders graze. For a split second you are a soft kitten. You crawl warm and naked across a ten mile mattress. White sheets are made of dove wings. Thundering stallions make you alive. He bumps you and steps alittle ahead. He turns quickly. His face is a mass of screen idols and the smile is summer romance. A beach bum beauty. His mouth flares and he says. "Hi ya kid". His body becomes more forceful as his pace quickens and stomps ahead. He turns the corner and is almost out of sight. You see his misty form echoing into the morning. The blue haze-maze of his presence passes. The tinmling sounds of wind chimes clink in your ears and morning birds begin to wake and sing. The air is alittle cooler now. You str slmody to your bed.. Rememberance fills you. The sunlight of yesterday runs across your mind. It is time to sleep and paint a dream. "Give the world a kiss for me".....

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Directed by

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Production Designed by

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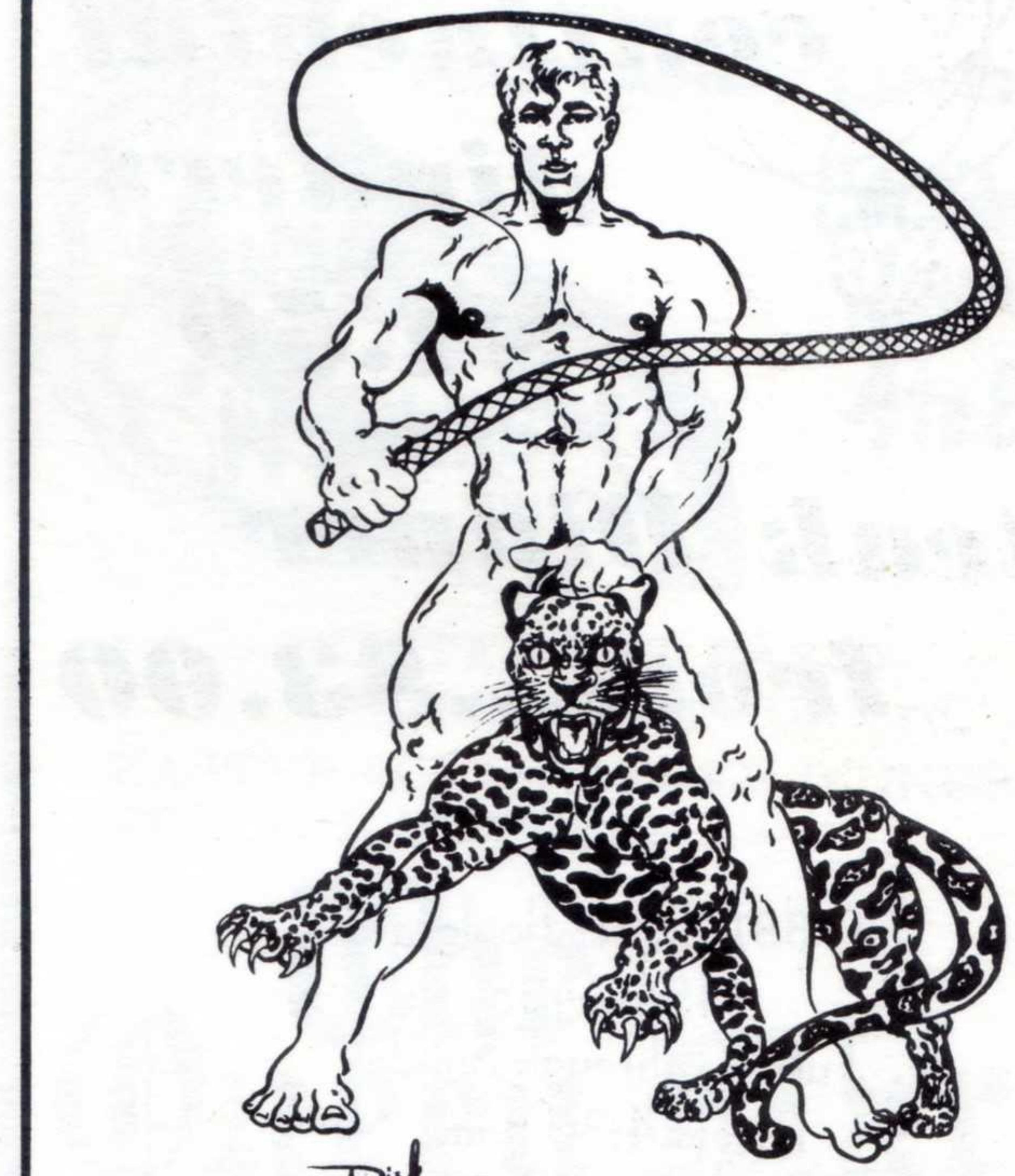
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BIKE TALK—

NIGHT OWL

Bike Bar Talk...this month is about the big Saturday night raid on that Hollywood bike bar. Eight customers were charged with lewd conduct and the management with exceeding their capacity. Some weeks later the uniformed police came in after an alleged burglary suspect--there had been another burglary at a nearby commercial plant, at least that was the excuse offered. This bar is known to stand behind its customers and in the past when the management ran another popular bike bar which had election time raids the unlucky victims were bailed out at the expense of the management.

The talk around town is of the continuing harassment of bars--all over town. Some say that only the Silverlake area is to be avoided but at the Buddy Club Party early in March we heard of visitations and/or arrests from Culver City to the San Fernando Valley--even that busy Western bar out there was visited late one Sunday night by a sergeant and patrolman anxious to check out the license at that late hour; they left amiably and strolled back to their car parked up the block.

Those of us who dig the bar scene know that the popular bars--leather and sweater alike, are well and properly run--so much so that in some places if two men shake hands the management almost has conniptions. Everyone has a different explanation for this election time misuse of the police--and the uniformed police are certainly not to blame; look further up the power structure for an explanation--know your local city councilman and his views on homosexuality before you vote.

Bike bar talk this past month was also about the violence that has again intruded into the city's respectable gay world. Early in March the manager of a small baths off Sunset Boulevard was shot dead by a young gunman who may or may not have held the place up some weeks pre-

viously. In the March holdup he was dissatisfied with the small amount offered so he shot the manager and rifled the office, escaping before the police arrived. The police then took the half dozen or so customers in for questioning but all were released later.

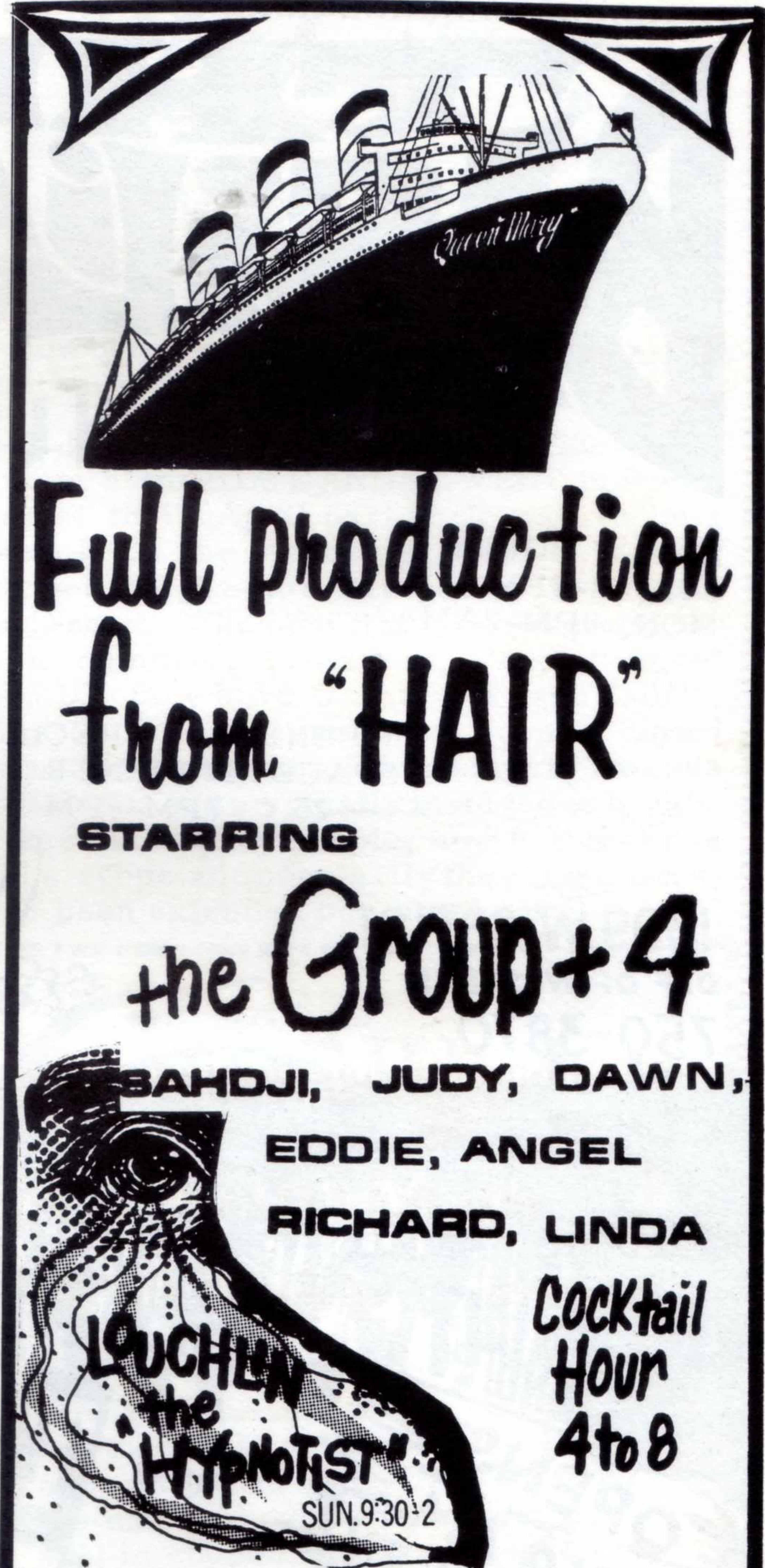
Sundays in Los Angeles are getting to be very hectic and competitive--brunch, bike runs, movies at several places in the afternoon (The Hayloft still has the edge here with films worth seeing again), buffets galore--and usually free or almost; latest bar to join the buffet bit is The Stampede, long a favorite with the late, late bike crowd though the butch Hippie element from West Hollywood usually reigns here. While there one night we discussed the local 'gay heat wave' with Frank J. from Fresno--he once belonged to one of our local clubs and took advantage of the first fine weekend of the year to take his new Triumph to L.A. He told us that Fresno too is uptight at the moment but that the bar scene is lively and without the type of harassment we have in L.A. He reports that The Orange Ogre is now closed but that Modesto now has a worthwhile bar just off the 99 Freeway that is doing well. Meanwhile Southern Californians have enjoyed the second big run of the year--the Satyrs Club outing to San Diego about which we'll comment next month--as earlier reported the small but efficient San Andreas Club had a successful run to that new dude ranch out by Victorville in San Bernardino County. There's nothing like it up north.

The other Sunday we pulled our bikes up to the ex-Horny Toad in the Valley--a favorite after-run refreshment saloon--it's now called The Tale of the Toad but still run by the same guys. It was so busy that we never found out what happened to Horny.

David

Coming Soon

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EVENTS

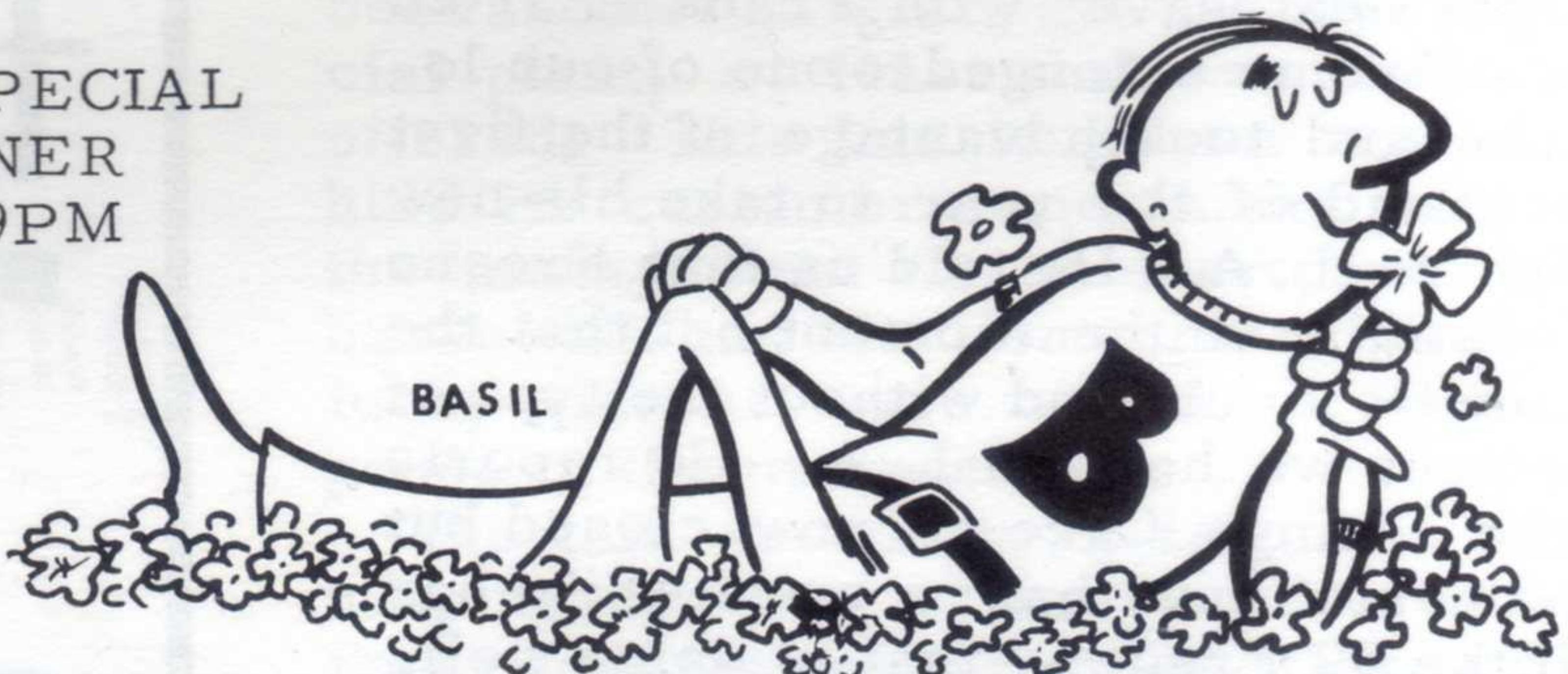
EASTER HAT PARTY

April 6th
Awards at 9PM

ACADEMY AWARDS

PARTY

Mon. April 14th 7PM
Buffet & COLOR TV
Pick up ballots at bar.

A black and white illustration for 'The Little Cave' restaurant. The text 'THE LITTLE CAVE' is in large, bold, block letters. To the left, a banner says 'OPENS 10 AM. DAILEY'. To the right, another banner says 'SUNDAYS BRUNCH 50¢'. Below the main title, the text 'SEEING IS BELIEVING' is written in a stylized font. At the bottom, the address '3111 Sunset Blvd. 666-9573' is given.

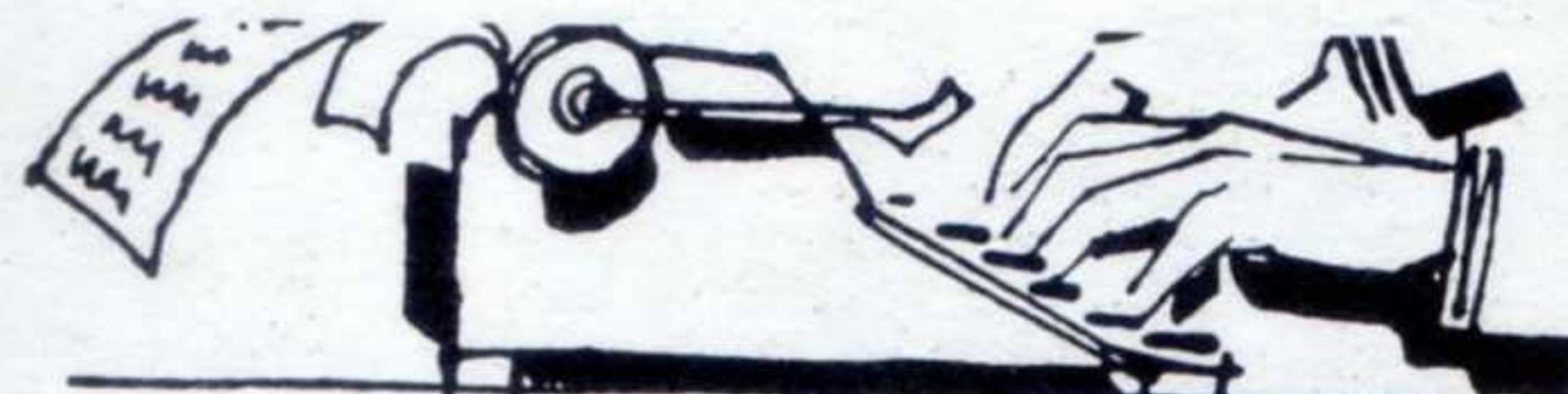
OPENS 10 AM. DAILEY

THE LITTLE CAVE

SEEING IS BELIEVING

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SUNDAYS
BRUNCH
50¢



LETTERS

Dear Sir,

As an ex-LA resident I like to keep in touch. A local friend showed me a copy of THE MAGPIE he recently bought in San Francisco but he was unable to remember the name of the bar. On my monthly visit to San Francisco I asked for your magazine in four bars but none of them sold it. Please let me know where I can buy the Magpie in the Bay Area. For personal reasons I do not wish to subscribe.

L. McC. - San Jose

THE MAGPIE may be purchased at Neal-Clift Gift and Book Store, 272 O'Farrell St. and at Adonis Book Store, 350 Ellis St. and at the following bars; The Covered Wagon, The Gas Station, Off and On the Levee, The Paradox, Fe-Be's, and The Libra. Soon we hope to double this number.

CC - Editor

SPOT LITE On —

Be a Victor at the Viking. Fast becoming one of the most popular bars in our Valley (Veronica, that is). The Bar, owned by congenial Hosts, Bob and Jerry is a plush little club known as the Valley Viking in Burbank, Riverside Drive.

Featuring Laugh-In on Monday nights starting at 7:30 PM right through to 2:00 AM Coffee Hours on early Sunday mornings, this club is going to town.

Always a hospitable atmosphere here, the Viking is a must on this list of all bar people.

LAUGH-IN AT VALLEY VIKING



"Lulu's" back in town

Lulu's back in town on April 14. This year Lulu moves from her home base, The Blue Angel West out to the Sunset Strip to the world famous Ciro's Night Club. Voting is now being conducted at The Blue Angel West until April 7th.

"LULU" originated April 18, 1965 as a "camp" at the BLUE ANGEL WEST in Studio City at their April party. It was to be a take off on the Academy Awards, campy but not vulgar nor derogatory to anyone concerned. When the statues were purchased a nominee, remarked, "name" them 'LULU', they have Oscar, we have Lulu". Thus the entire event was born. Names are nominated by Lew Schirtzinger, Awards Chairman, and originally involved only valley bars and valley people, now however due to the scope and popularity they (nominees) have been extended outside the valley.



Week in Waikiki

MAGPIE MAGAZINE is looking for the top bartender in the L.A. area. WHO is he? WHERE is he? We can find out by your vote... Fill in coupon below and leave with bartender.

contest closes March 31 th. 1969

Bartender _____

Club _____





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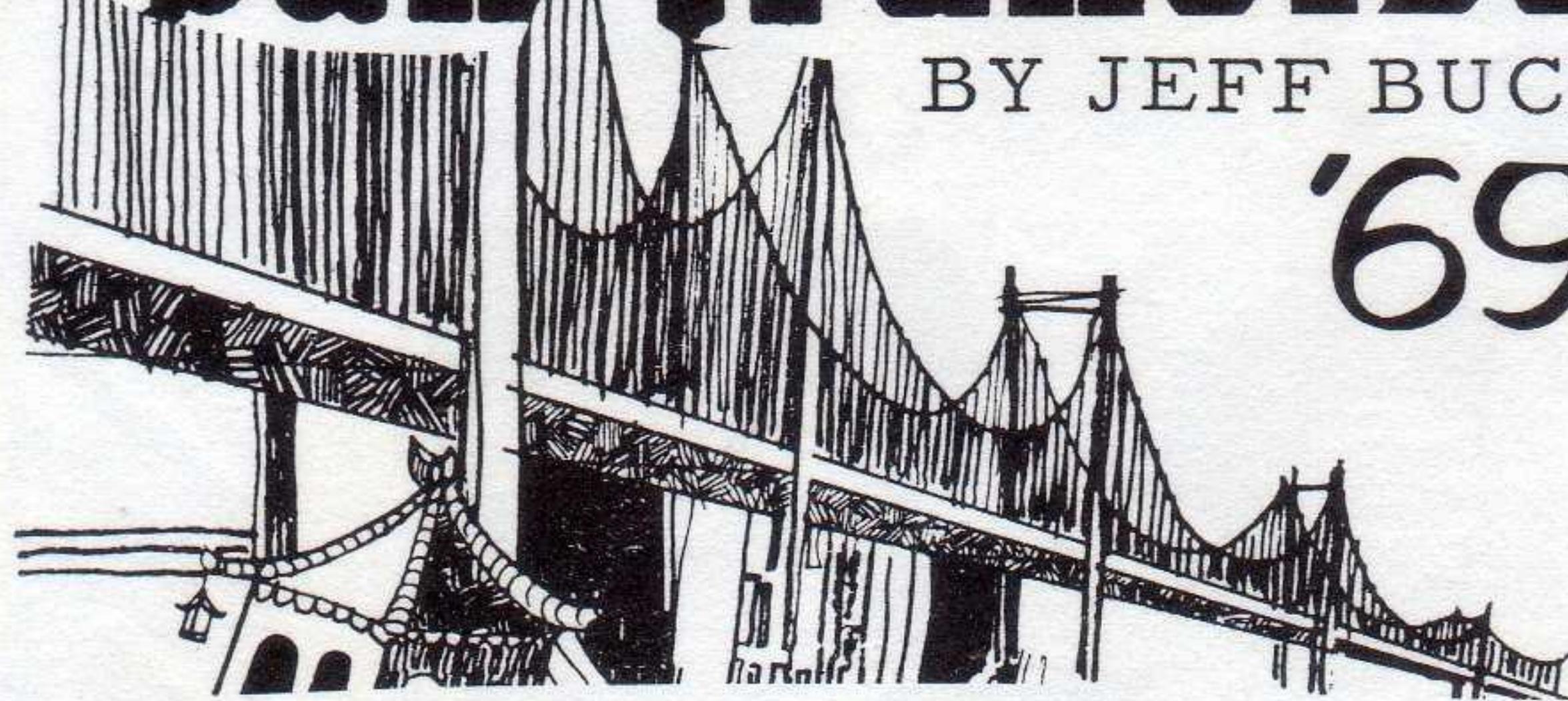


AARON FRANKLIN our cover boy for this month is employed as a bartender at the BLACK PIPE on La Cienega Blvd. in Los Angeles.

Aaron • • •

san francisco

BY JEFF BUCKLEY
'69



There's always somewhere new to go in town but the trend of one closing equalling one opening continues. During February two busy places on 'Polkstrasse' were closed by the ABC for violations; sounds more like a suspension, we hope. That bright new place out on Geary (in direct line from Land's End to Downtown when driving) called The Paradox has really caught on and the food served is excellent and most reasonable by 'Frisco standards; there is dancing on a special floor at the rear. That popular after hours spot, The Corral, closed for remodelling but with The Rama (now membership) and The Covered Wagon still going strong on Folsom or The Miracle Mile, there is still a lot of activity over there after 2 a.m.

On Divisidero, not far from California Street, we visited a pleasant bar called The Lion. It has good piano entertainment and is an excellent after dinner stopping place for the older crowd who don't want to have to shout when conversing with their companions. This bar was the scene of a brutal holdup and shooting late last year - a rare-event in San Francisco where the streets are becoming more hazardous by the month in some areas for the unwary late night pedestrian.

One Friday night during the rains we had a good time at The Lonely Bull on Turk near Van Ness; even though it was still early the bar was busy, with some leather in evidence. Marty, one of the owners was presiding when we were there. The other owner is Bob I. - well known to the bike crowd north and south and also as nephew of the famous Cal (Donia) or is it the other way around?

Across Turk from The Lonely Bull is a new health spa - The Atlas Club. It is open twenty four hours and is a branch of the Seattle Atlas Club. Another Sunday early in March, after the mad auction at Fe-Be's conducted by Jose as a benefit for the unfortunate Dick C. of the Warlocks, we

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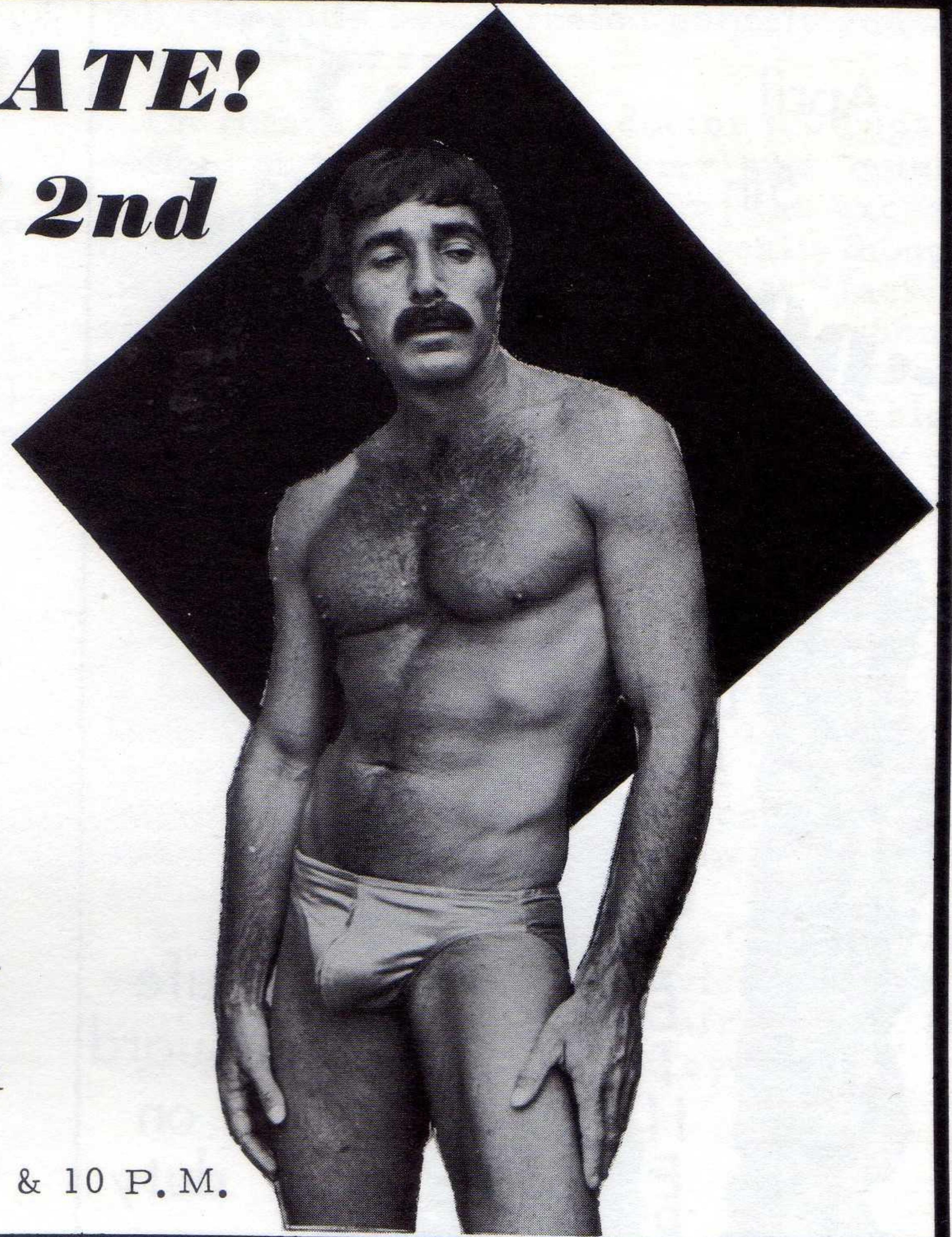
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SF '69

dined well at a bar and restaurant some friends told us about. This was The Libra on Market near Laguna, an intimate little place to take someone you're involved with and nothing is better for a long night's journey than a good meal beforehand.

During that auction mentioned above we had time to browse in Nick's emporium upstairs at Fe-Be's where everything is made of leather, chains or studs. The most unusual article we saw was - no, you're wrong only the F.F.A. has those! - was, we repeat, an LP recording of a Satanic Mass 'sung'? or made at the First Satanic Church's temple on California Street.... now you know what to give the religious fanatic who has everything when next you're asked to a pray - in.

In March we caught several excerpts from movie classics that George and Paul show all the time at The Ramrod to keep it 'way up on the 'most popular bar' list. They have discontinued the Sunday afternoon 'rock combo - The Ramrod is just too small for that type of entertainment (Those who like to dance and groove to a live combo

can do so on Sundays and Mondays at The Toolbox, now under new management)..... Shown during the month were such classic pieces as Bunuel's 'The Amdalucian Dog' and that wild Bolero danced by George Raft before he made the big time as a 'heavy'. But for live comedy and a good buffet afterwards there still is no place in town like The Opera Club with Jose at five on a Sunday afternoon.

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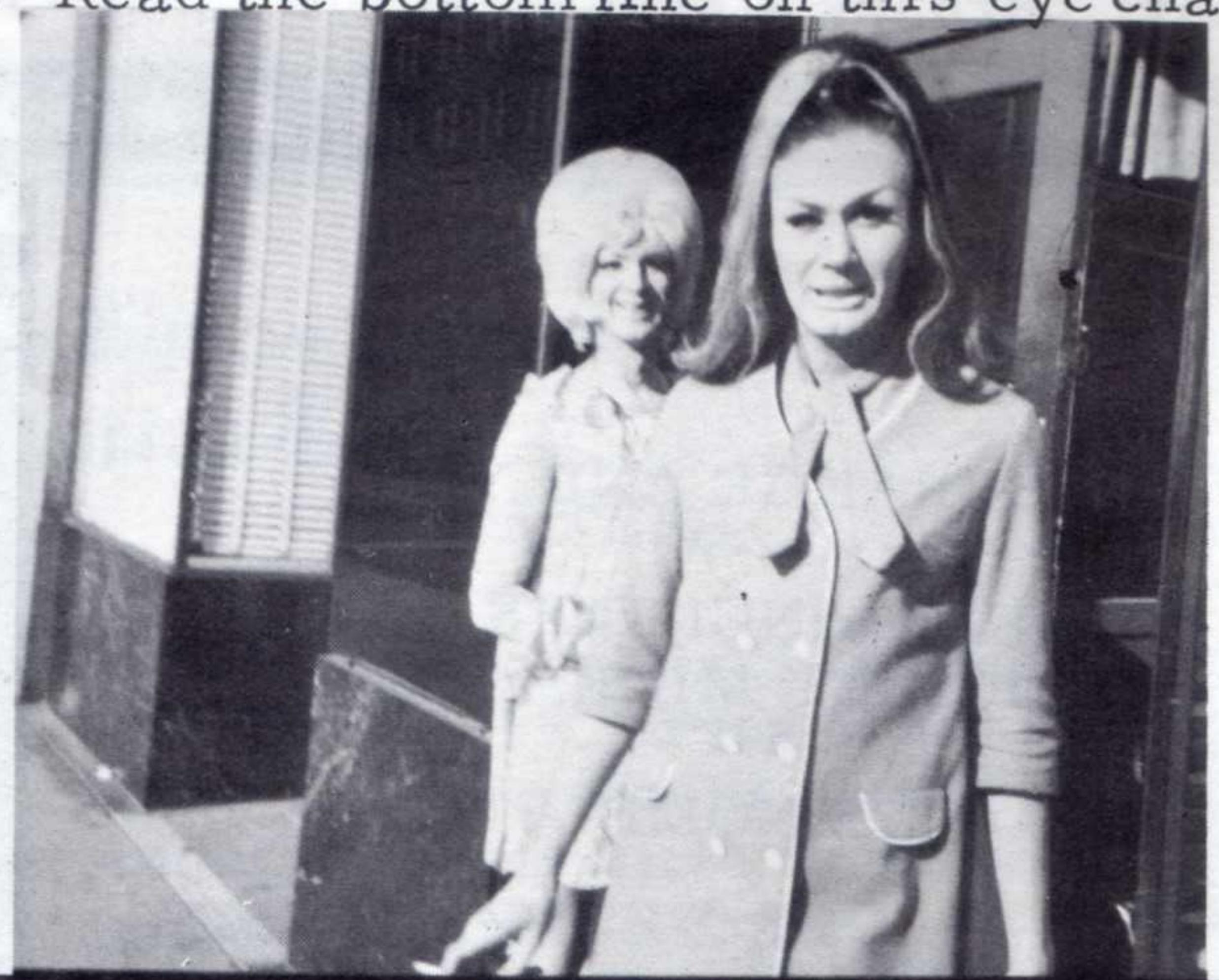
Draft board a drag

GAYLE CHANNING MEETS
UNCLE SAM'S CALL.....

It was 8:00 on a Monday morning. The sun was bright and the bustle of downtown L.A. was at its usual pace... Hup, two, three, four was the sound of high heels marching to the Draft Board. HIGH HEELS MARCHING TO THE DRAFT BOARD!?!? What? ? ? ? Was it T. Curtis and J. Lemmon making a sequel to "Some Like It Hot"? Were they drafting women now? ? NO, gentlemen and ladies too, it was Gayle Channing and friend Kimberly heading for the Induction Center. Whether they were in, or out of Cognito is up to the reader. Gayle, looking dapper, in a conservative blue mini suit with white trim and shoes and bag to match made a sparkling sight. You might have thought her to be a modern day business woman, a buyer for Bullocks, a model for May's, on her way to work. Yet no, Gayle was simply answering a call from her Uncle Sam, with Kimberly Starr to comfort her in case of a trauma. Trams, Smama!! They couldn't have been nicer. (They being Uncle Sam's family of regimented robots at the Draft Board) Gayle stepped up to the front desk and handed the man her papers. She waited politely. The

man fainted. After they carried him away, Gayle was escorted to a private room (as any lady of quality should be) and promptly and discretely interviewed.

A call was made to the woman's examining room. The female doctor was asked to take an hour coffee break. Miss Channing was taken to this room for her examination. The male doctors took her pulse (all the while taking bets in their minds, no doubt) She got the complete treatment, right down to "Read the bottom line on this eye chart".



GAYLE AND KIM MAKING A GRAND ENTRANCE INTO DRAFT BOARD.

All the while being treated politely and with a new kind of respect.

On return of the lady doctor (20 cups of coffee and 7 donuts heavier) she quietly confided in Gayle, telling him, (ah excuse) her that she, (the lady doctor) really thought Gayle was a woman. In her nicest "Jackie" voice Gayle replied. "Thank you, when a woman thinks I'm a woman and treats me like a lady, that's something. It's the highest form of compliment". Surprisingly enough though, they did not compare measurements.

This that I report to you is true. I waited in the lobby of the Induction Center while it happened. It was kind of refreshing to know that in this time and age of fantastic turmoil that some of us, even people with mundane governmental jobs, can have respect for others who believe in being themselves.

P.S. Oh by the way, Gayle Channing was not accepted into the service under it's present standards. No I'm afraid not.. She was refused because of bad eye sight!





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Black Knight

Sonny at Odair's

BY JAY

The delightful Sunny Dallas performed a one man show and appeared as a cast of thousands. The curtain opens and there stands Sunny as Sunny. After seating himself at a small table he allows the audience to see the entire transformation from a handsome young man in levis and jacket to an attractive woman in long gown. From this point Sunny delivers a cascade of personalities in an array of costumes from formal evening wear to mini skirts and one number (Aquarius) he does as a peacock in the greatest tradition of the Las Vegas show girl, feathered bra, panties, headress and an eight foot tail of Regal Peacock feathers. It is one of the most impressive numbers we've seen, especially in the field of lighting. By using, black, red, and violet lighting the iridescent feathers of the peacock change from their natural green to yellow, then to orange, then to a flame color, to crimson, to almost violet with soft accents. Sunny's ability to blend pantomime and live performance in

the same numbers is indeed a unique talent. Regardless of the number he was performing or where he stood on stage one felt he was belting the entire show to each individual person in the room. He has a remarkable talent of engrossing his audience and playing just to them, never the lights over his head.

Rumor has it we'll soon see more of Sunny, perhaps a special at the B.A.W.

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The boys in the band

CHARLES Mc ALISTER

I went to the first night of Mart Crowley's new play about homosexuals at the Huntington-Hartford Theatre expecting a so-so evening of high camp, especially after the scene in the lobby--which was wilder than the birthday party in the play. Even after curtain up I expected a comedy but I soon found that "The Boys in the Band" was certainly not a comedy by any definition--particularly because the ending

leaves no room for hope--only despair.

The plot, a rather thin one, revolves around a birthday party being given for the reigning "Bitch Queen"--Harold, affectionately called "Hally" by his inner circle. Before the party starts the host, adroitly played by Dennis Cooney as the guilt-ridden Catholic, receives a phone call from Alan, an old straight buddy. Alan begs to see Michael to tell him something important; Michael tries to dissuade him but relents when Alan promises to make the visit brief.

Alan's role is the only really ambiguous one created by Crowley. It is as if he didn't know where to go with the character; he ends up going nowhere. In the end he cops out by sending Alan back to his wife after we have been given strong hints that Alan is a "closet queen".

During the party there are several exorcisms aided greatly by the device of having each partygoer call someone he has, or does, truly love. The winner is to be the one with the guts to say "I love you" to the person called. Hally refuses, of course, but is handed some of the play's funniest lines as comic relief during the phone calling. The phoning device allows for many solo performances; that of Emory, played by Cliff Gorman, I preferred. The character of Emory is so flagrantly swish that he is the one type who is most identified by "straights" as a gay boy. Incidentally, Crowley has written something for everyone here; for the Jew, the Catholic, the Negro, the sexually dead, the upside-down heterosexual--all but the poor left out Protestant, but then perhaps they come under the heading of sexually dead?

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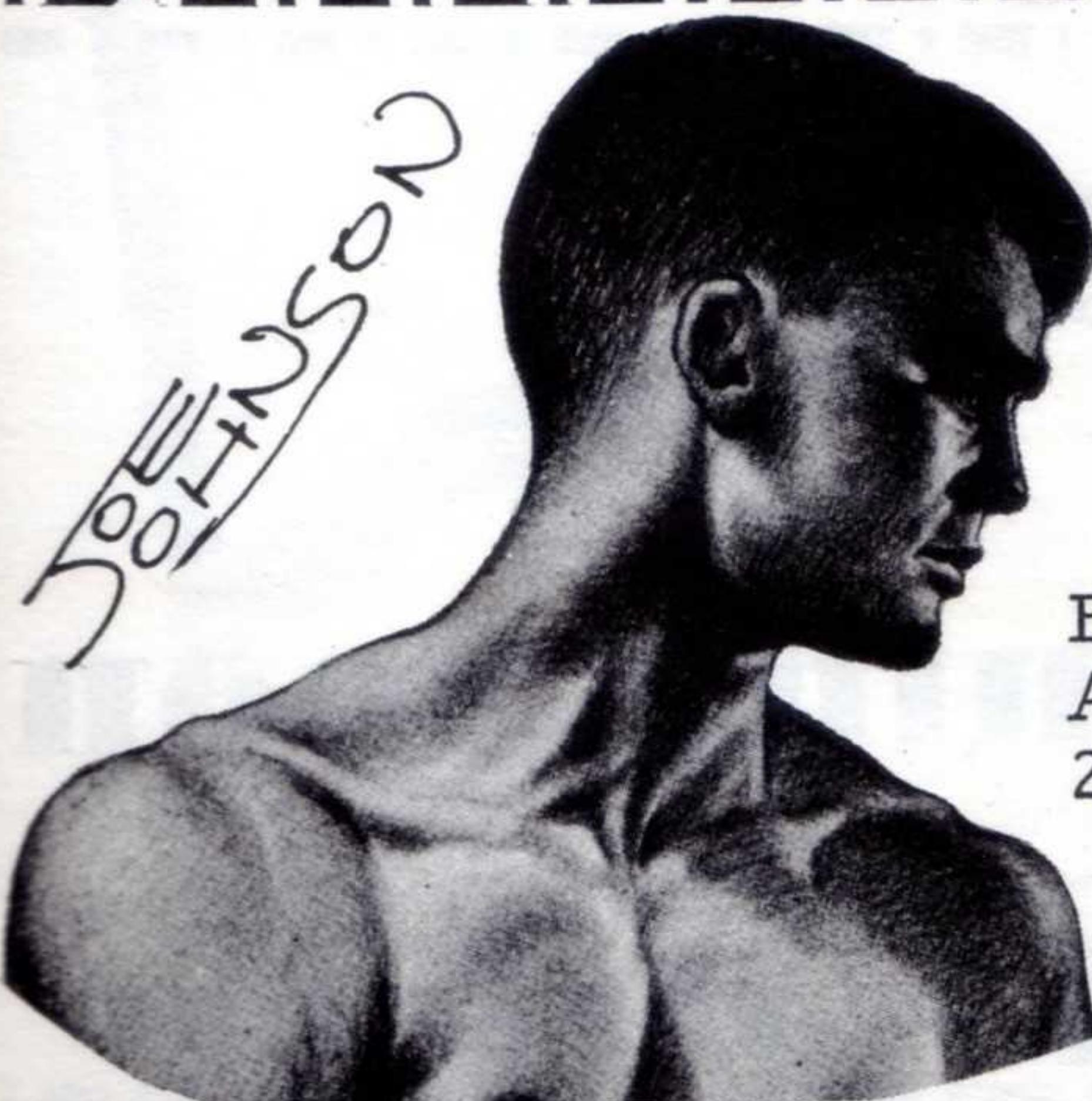
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BOYS

To dismiss this play as one simply rooted in and sustained by self-pity--a la Virginia Wolff, is to miss the point. True, Crowley states that a homosexual is obviously doomed by the world in which he lives and also by his own nature. Crowley offers no solutions but seems to suggest that the homosexual adjust to his dilemma. The play thrusts at the audience, pulling no punches; it captures the essence of the homosexual world's no-exit problems and also the gay world's vernacular. The moments of ensemble acting are often brilliant and the title, wherever the writer found it, is an inspired one.

Special kudos from this corner go to Michael Lipton as "Hally", and to his make-up man and wardrobe man for just the right touch. Also effective are Emory, played by Cliff Gorman and Konrad Matthaei as Hank, the bisexual school teacher (Ivy League yet!). Roger Herren is just right in the thankless role of the hustler--the hustler was "Hally's" birthday present from Emory. Guy Edwards as bernard dealt manfully with what I thought to be the weakest lines in the play. But when you go, do watch for Lipton's portrayal of Harold--as far as I was concerned he stole every scene in which he appeared.

"The Boys in the Band" will be at the Huntington-Hartford through April.

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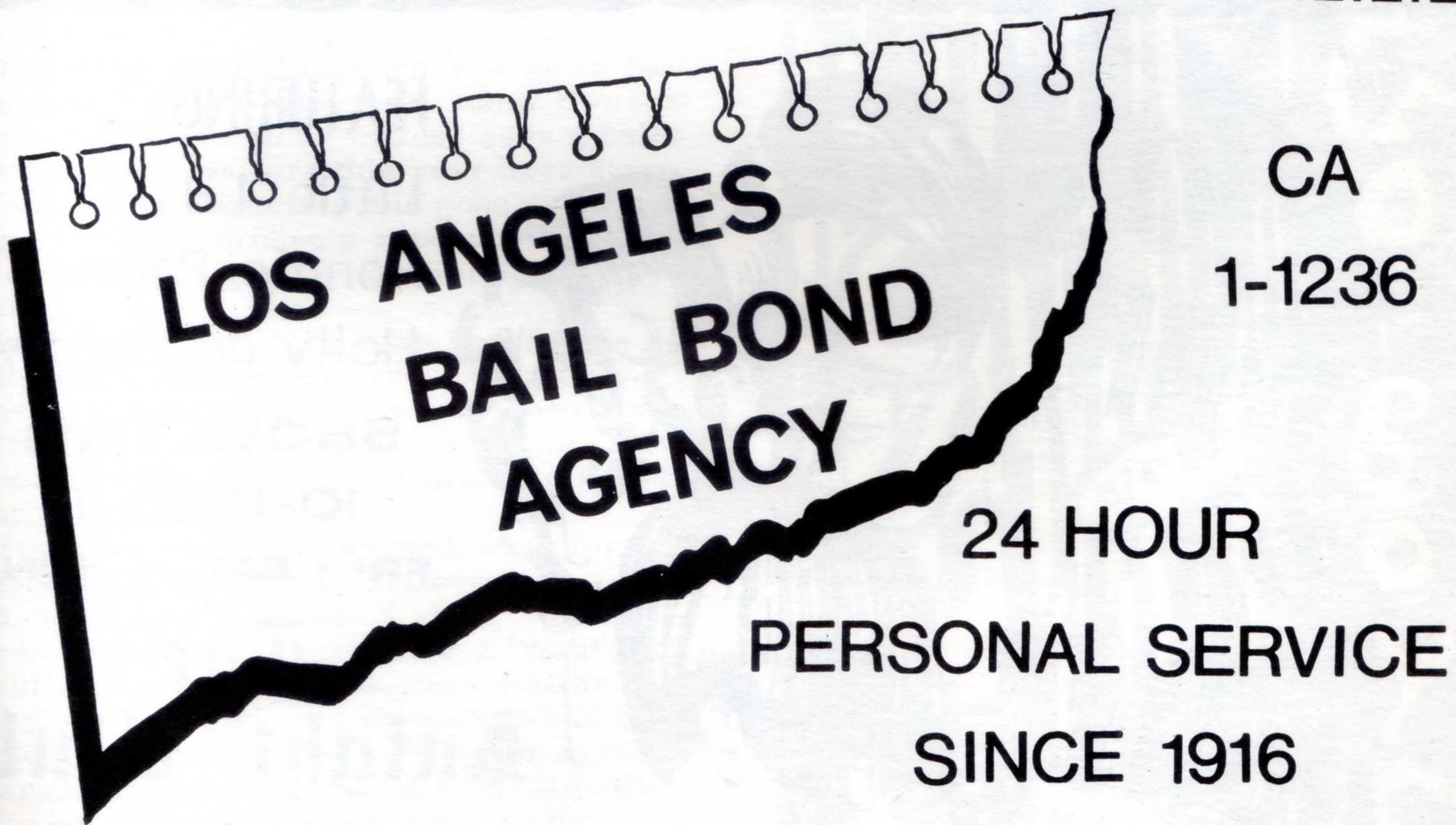
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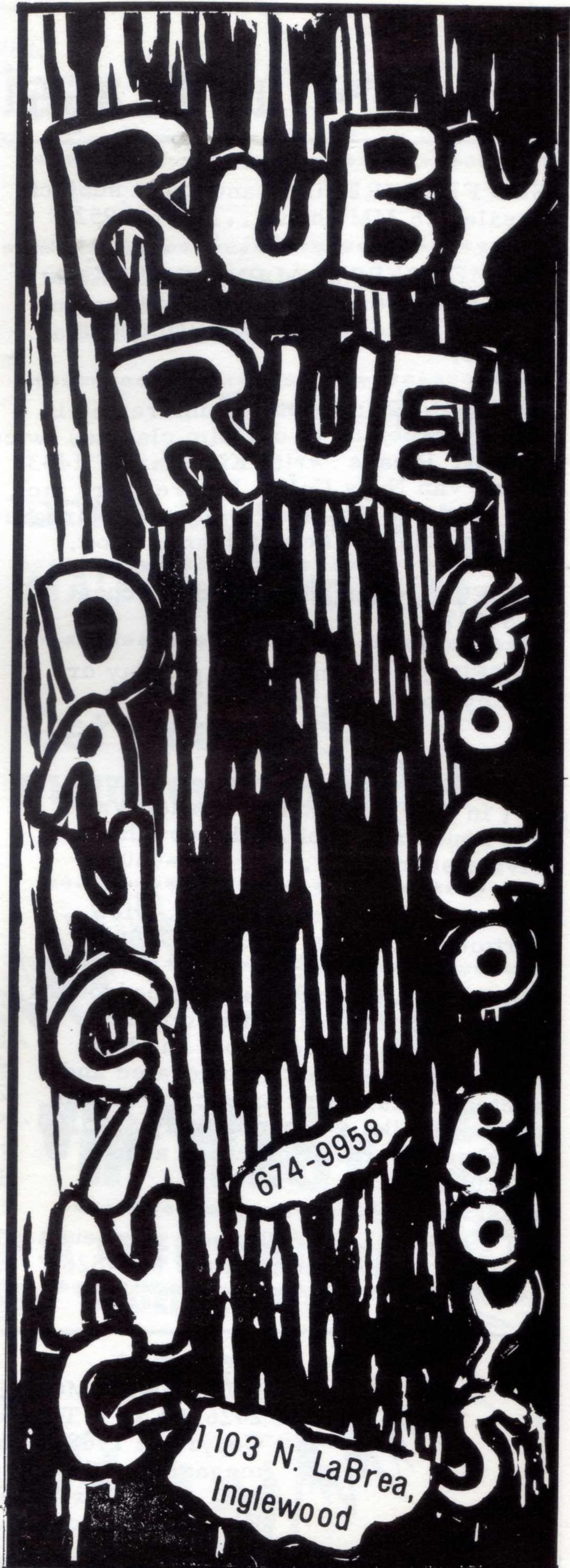
NO FLOWERS FOR L.A.

TO OUR OUT OF STATE READERS:

The song goes that when you go to San Francisco you should wear some flowers in your hair - in other words, have a ball. But too many visitors this year have started out in San Francisco and gone on to Los Angeles hoping to have a repeat of the same wild, fabulous, groovy or what have you scene.

In Los Angeles they have had a rude awakening - often being arrested or at least brusquely questioned for no obvious reason but that they are bearded, wear Hippie clothes or leather jackets or happen to be out hunting late at night.

You have now been warned; even for the resident, it is hard to believe that these two cities are in the same state. Even being in a bar that is marked for a 'raid' may result in arrest for the unwary visitor sitting alone and talking to no one. When they decide to hit a bar the number of arrests is apparently decided on BEFOREHAND so that you do not have to be doing anything to get taken in. So we guess that you could make a parody on that song and say that when you go to LA proceed with care - and leave the flowers in San Francisco.



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